



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

60 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2009

Volume 59 Number 9

www.phil-mont.org

September 2009

September 7th is Labor Day!

Yup, that's as late as it can be

Note: both September meetings are *pushed back* a week this month. The Board of Directors will meet on the 9th and the General Membership meeting will be on the 16th

Know what Channel 1 is? Bob, W3NE explains



See page 4

Paul Bohlander, W3VVS, celebrated his 90th on
August 30th!

See Tom, WA3KLR's, bio on page 8

<i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <i>Copying and quoting</i> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. <i>Subscriptions</i> are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer. Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225 Club Archivist: Gwen Patton NG3P ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862 Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH <u>Submissions deadline:</u> All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.	Directors: W3AOK (09) WA3KIO (09) N3XKE (09) N3MT (10) KB2ERL (10) KB3IV (10) NS3K (A)	Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Webmistress: Maggie K3XS k3xs@arrl.net For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: wb3koj@comcast.net
	Sunday Morning Net Schedules • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater	

Committees Archives: NG3P Audit: NS3K Awards: open Blurb folding: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH Directory: WB3KOJ	DX: N3MT Emerg. Coord: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: K3XS Membership: N3XKE Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM	Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU	TVI: W3VVS VE Program: NS3K W3AA Trustee: WU3I Welcome: N3UBY Youth: N3MT
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All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128**
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at

Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

Reach us on EchoLink through WU3I-L

W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS

The Officers

President: WU3I Steve Hoch, 546 Monastery Ave, Philadelphia PA 19128 wu3i@arrl.net

Vice President: N3QV Eric D. Marano, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 n3qv@arrl.net

Secretary: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com

Treasurer: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net

Asst. Treasurer: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez...

Hello all and here it is the end of summer as we know it. This is not a disaster we have to mobilize for, however I am sure PMRC would do just fine in that department.

It has come to my attention that there has been some more than usual activity on the repeater. I want to take the time to remind all of you that there is a DRIVE TIME preference to MOBILES on our repeater. We are as you know the Phil-Mont MOBILE Radio Club. Just look up a copy of Every Single Minute online (for those of you who don't have your own personal copy) and you will see why we as a club emphasize Mobile operation. It has also been mentioned to me that with the activity of more young people in the hobby, and Phil-Mont especially, we have to watch our language *on the air!* What may seem appropriate in polite company should not be spoken *on the air*. Please govern yourselves accordingly.

Hope to see you all at the September meeting.

de Steve, WU3I



The next Thursday evening VE session is on September 24. Many thanks to our dedicated examiners!

**September Birthdays**

- 01 Sol Volen - N3UBY
- 05 George Walmsley - W3DO
- 13 Marge Concordia (XYL WB3KAC)
- 15 Bob Freer - W3YLT
- 17 Vikye Swanson (XYL N3GLH)
- 20 Michael Taraborrelli - N3MT
- 21 Marion Lester (XYL W3WFI)
- 23 Jan Colucci (XYL KB3HOE)
Eileen Kerrigan (YL ND3B)
John Simon - KB3SJS*
- 24 Virginia Buono (XYL WA3ADI)

*NEW MEMBER 2009

Membership Stats

At press time PMRC had:

- 90 FULL PAID MEMBERS
- 9 FAMILY MEMBERS
- 3 YOUTH MEMBERS
- 2 HONORARY MEMBERS
- 0 PENDING MEMBERS

UPCOMING DIRECTORY SUPPLEMENT

With the October Blur you will receive the 2009 Directory Supplement. It will contain new member information, plus corrections and additions received during the last six months. *Continued on page 4*

Tid-Bytes continued...

In addition, the Supplement will feature the "Electronic Mailing list" of PMRC members who have sent me their E-Mail addresses.

If you would like your cell phone listed in place of your work phone, please indicate your change and the cell number, followed by (cp).

If you have changes, send your information to me (no later than 9/12) at: wb3koj@comcast.net or via snail mail at the address shown in your directory.

Radio Stores ... 'N' More

by Bob Thomas, W3NE

CHANNEL 1 Life Before Repeaters

Believe-It-Or-Not™ there was a time when hams in this region communicated locally without the "benefit" of a repeater! Foremost among them were the hundred or so members of – you guessed it – the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club! We all used AM equipment for our fixed and mobile stations, operating on the common communicating frequency of 29.493 Mc, universally known as *Channel-1*. That specific frequency resulted from availability of cheap surplus FT-243 crystals on 7333.33 kc, using their fourth harmonic to generate a net frequency in the upper end of the 10-meter band. Many Phil-Monters monitored Channel-1 with wideband crystal-controlled receivers with squelch, and some even had remote operating positions around the house enabling them to answer calls almost instantly from wherever they were. One in particular, Brad Martin, W3QV (whose call now graces our 2M repeater) pretty regularly monitored Channel-1 twenty-four hours a day, not unlike the current practice of W3RM. That intense monitoring, supplemented by timely response in emergencies, rightfully led to the club slogan, "Phil-Mont is ready...Every Single Minute." You could count on an answer to a request for a routine contact or a distress call – and there occasionally were some – at almost any time of the day or night.

You might think the range of our mobile stations was limited for direct communications compared to relaying through today's high-altitude centrally-located repeater, but not so. For one thing 10-meter ground wave propagation is inherently better than VHF. Flutter and fading are not as prominent, we all used decent antennas and reasonable power, and we did not have to contend with marginal signals from flea power HTs. Furthermore, when the band was open, DX stations would frequently relay during QSOs between mobiles that were at far ends of the service area, unable to hear each other directly. One Denver ham often provided that service on a daily basis whenever the band was open. At other times regular denizens of "the frequency" in England and in Germany livened the frequency, all without computer intervention (which thankfully had not yet been invented). Of course another benefit of 10-meters during band openings was solid domestic and foreign DX QSOs for mobiles. A secondary club net frequency of 29.626 Mc. (known as Channel-2) was established for use when Channel-1 was busy, and there also was a National Calling Frequency at 29.640 Mc. for initiating DX contacts worldwide.

Fixed station antennas were typically a vertical coaxial type that employed a 1/4-wave radiator above a 1/4-wave coaxial matching section fed with 75-ohm coax. One of the club members built several of that type in his shop for early Phil-Monters and when they ran out we reverted to one manufactured by Kreco, a local antenna manufacturer. Coax antennas had a sleek appearance because they were made to screw on top of a 3/4" threaded pipe mast with the transmission line running up inside the pipe, through the 8-ft. coaxial matching section made of 2" diameter brass or aluminum tube, to a connector at the bottom of the radiator. Mobile antennas were sometimes multi-band verticals, but generally they were simply an 8-foot whip with spring mount on the rear bumper. W3CNO had a droll sense of humor; George connected a pilot light bulb across a couple of inches of his whip near its center so the bulb was illuminated by RF current whenever he transmitted, no doubt to the wonderment of following motorists.

Occupancy of Channel-1 was consistently high beginning with morning drive time when W3JGB parked on in Fairmount Park before going to his office at IRC. He conducted the "Scrambled Egg Net" for late risers and several members driving to work. The "10-on-10 Net," forerunner of today's less disciplined Sunday morning net, attracted up to sixty stations, many of which also populated the frequency well before net time and continued with contacts long after the net closed. Even when 10M was dead, there were lots of mobile and fixed QSOs going on during the day. Noontime usually saw a rise in activity on Channel-1 from several members who went out to their cars in the parking lot for a brown Bag lunch and still more operation.

It didn't used to be a crime to call CQ, so there were seldom any instances, so common on the repeater where a station will slur his call once, doesn't get an instant reply, and immediately moves off, sometimes just missing a contact. Additionally, QSOs were generally substantive and seldom brief, perhaps because most users of the frequency were Phil-Mont members who knew each other pretty well and had a lot of common interests to discuss. This came about because a high percentage of club members regularly attended monthly Membership and open Mid-Month (Directors) meetings where everyone took an active part in discussions and policy making. There was wide participation in hidden transmitter hunts, exchange visits with the Washington Radio Club, annual club banquets and dinner-dances, frequent public service events and CD drills, and consistent operation on the net frequency in the evenings. That was the way we got to know each other, and it also resulted in a commendably high level of participation which typically brought out two or more candidates for every elected office.

Another difference in operation between the 10-meter AM days and what we (don't) experience now, was activity during evenings and weekends. It typically began around 7 PM and continued, more on than off, until after 10 PM. Sometimes it was serious, but often took a light hearted turn, like the famous "Barrel Modulation Incident." One Friday evening, the most active night of the week on the

frequency, somebody made a transmission with a wastebasket over his head and, with booming hollow audio, asked for an audio quality report. The first to reply (either in cahoots, or having an insightful assessment of the impending gag) told the enquiring station his audio quality was excellent, "Sounds just like you – don't change a thing." Another station confirmed that report, and then another. Finally, some poor innocent schlub (the mark) who had been monitoring all along could not keep quiet any longer. With utmost temerity he offered the apologetic opinion that the offensive audio might have just a little too much bass and possibly a slight hollow sound. Of course it was all of that in spades! By then several other stations had caught on and heaped on even more praise for the barrel modulation, all to the embarrassment of the mark. Eventually the mark caught on and everybody had a good laugh.

A reason often offered to explain periods of low occupancy on 147.03 is that today's hams are much busier than those of fifty years ago. That just doesn't hold water. Many members who were consistently active on Channel-1 and in club events during the first two decades of Phil-Mont's existence were simultaneously raising young families, perhaps taking care of a relative, establishing a small business, and pursuing other aspects of ham radio, just like now. Maybe the answer is simply that hams are not as enthusiastic today or more likely, fascination with other interests, especially computers, leaves less time for amateur operation. Whatever the reason, we undeniably have an incredible resource in the W3QV repeater – it just needs to be used!



Hmm, doesn't look like a beginner's project to me!

From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Sunday, 8/16/09

California teacher inspires a new generation.

Teens lend a youthful air to short-wave radio hobby

By Bob Pool

Los Angeles Times

CALABASAS, Calif. - Other teenagers are consumed with cell phones, text messages, Tweets, e-mails and Facebook postings.

But 75 students in Calabasas, 25 miles north of Los Angeles, have become licensed amateur radio operators and hope to lead a new wave of shortwave enthusiasts.

For them, the image of the gray-haired ham radio hobbyist tinkering with capacitors, carrier frequencies and coaxial antenna cables is as old-fashioned as the dots and dashes of Morse code.

"I always thought that cell phones were the most reliable form of communication," said Trenton Gluck, 16. "Everyone uses cell phones."

But one day four years ago, Gluck realized that pocket phones don't work when there's a power failure. Neither does the Internet. But battery-powered ham radios and solar-powered hilltop repeater stations do.

So the Calabasas youngster was all ears when science teacher Karl Beutel offered to teach his eighth graders basic radio principles and give them extra credit if they could pass the Federal Communications Commission's amateur-radio license test.

Gluck was among 17 students to pass the FCC test that year. Over the next three years, 57 others earned their licenses. There are plans to offer the two-day radio sequence again this coming school year.

Beutel, 33, said he was motivated by the 1994 Northridge earthquake to become a licensed amateur radio operator. He said he decided to work radio into his students' classroom instruction after fellow ham Norm Goodkin bemoaned the state's

dropping references to electromagnetism from its eighth-grade physical sciences curriculum.

"We didn't go through any hoops. We just did it," Goodkin said of the curriculum upgrade.

Goodkin, 65, is a computer project manager who lives in Calabasas and has been a ham radio hobbyist for 52 years. His wife, Naomi, jokes that she had to become a licensed amateur operator before Goodkin would marry her.

Other experienced hams say they welcome the youngsters. Mark Spencer, a Coleville, Calif., educator involved with the hams' American Radio Relay League, estimated that the average age of this country's 700,000 or so radio amateurs is about 59. "People who say it's a graying hobby are correct," he said.

Gluck said he was nervous when he first signed on after obtaining his license and his \$180 radio.

"I heard all these adults talking and I thought, 'What will I say?' I've only told one person my age over the radio. But they can hear your voice and know you're young," he said.

Another Calabasas High senior, Eliana Levenson, 17, said she attempted last year to start a radio club for alumni of Beutel's classes but was unable to find a teacher willing to sponsor it.

Many of the Calabasas teenagers say they had hoped to become active with an emergency communications network that serves their community during brush fires or other disasters. But they have to be 18 to take part.

She and Gluck and another senior, Miles Keijer, 17, said they would try again this fall to launch a high school club that will serve as a follow-up to Beutel's middle school class and keep teens active on the air. Keijer said they are hopeful the radio club idea receives a better reception this time around. He said he knows how to spread word of it to his classmates.

"I have a Twitter account. I text. I e-mail - I have nine e-mail accounts. I'm on MySpace and Facebook," Keijer said. "Everybody's on Facebook."

A word about clubs...

From The ARRL Letter/American Radio Relay League.

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, shares his views on how clubs play an important role in Amateur Radio. Fusaro is Assistant Manager of the ARRL's Membership and Volunteer Programs Department. He is also the ARRL Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Supervisor.

I am very fortunate to be in a position at ARRL which allows me significant interaction with our members. It is very fulfilling to be able to put a smile on someone's face by helping them find a solution to their problem, regardless of the complexity. Sometimes it is not possible to be as helpful over the telephone or with e-mail, so I will try to direct the individual to a local club where they may be able to get some side-by-side coaching. The local radio club is without a doubt the place where most of us received our ham radio education. The club is where we learned the jargon and techno-speak used on the air and where we met folks to emulate and folks whom we swore we would never be like. Everything that we know about ham radio that didn't come from a book was probably learned at club meetings or late night Field Day chats over burnt coffee. Personally, I have made many longtime friendships from my involvement in local radio clubs and I am sure many others can say this as well.

Clubs, by definition, are groups of like-minded people who share a common interest. In reality a club is an eclectic assembly of individuals, each with a unique perspective of their activity. The dynamic of a club is no different than that of a large family. Think of your last family get-together and then take a look at your radio club.

If everybody was the same, life would be very boring. In every club, there is the usual cast of characters who add their distinctive flavors to the stew and make things interesting. It is diversity that makes a club work well. I have seen that no matter how varied the personalities are in a club, most of these personalities are also eager to help.

Helping each other is characteristic of radio amateurs.

How often have you experienced something like this? Two hams will be in QSO -- perhaps discussing an antenna installation or radio repair -- when another radio operator will break in with a helpful suggestion. This situation may have happened to you, or you may have even been the breaking station. The same thing happens (or should happen) at club meetings. If you need help with something, the closest resource is your local club. On the surface, the club may appear to be dysfunctional, but once you are involved, you will find that it is actually very productive.

The Pareto principle, commonly known as the 80-20 rule is a simple expression that 80 percent of the effects come from 20 percent of the causes. As applied in the business world, this would be 80 percent of the sales are driven by 20 percent of the customers. In a club, the percentages may be slightly different, but the fact remains that a small percentage of the membership is responsible for making things happen.

This is not to suggest that 80 percent of the members do not participate, but without a "sparkplug," some things would never get started. These people are the doers. The doers don't take no for an answer and are always willing to take on more responsibility. But where is the fun in jump-starting a project without someone telling you it would never work? Of course, it would be much more fun without the negative comments, but that goes against human nature. Ever since man tried to open a coconut with a rock, someone was right beside him offering a thousand excuses why it won't work: "You'll smash your thumb." "The rock will break." "You should invent a wheel and roll it over the coconut." "Let's just eat the bananas." The cynics of the world are an essential part of society -- and of our clubs. They challenge us and make us work harder to prove them wrong. Learn to accept these people but never let them distract you from moving forward.

You only get as much from a club as you put into it. A majority of the club bashers tend to be long time

hams with a "been there, done that" attitude, asking what a club has to offer them for them. To borrow from President John F. Kennedy, "ask what you can do for your club." Of course, we took more than we had to offer when we were younger and inexperienced. But over the years, we have gathered knowledge that we can share with the newcomers. Based upon my countless interactions with hams of all levels of experience, the novice has much to offer the old-timer, even if it is just reliving the joy of discovery. The local radio club has something for everybody who is willing to get involved.

*Thanks to **Ed, KB3IV***

Those who say it can't be done should get out of the way of those who are doing it.

Happy 1st birthday to my granddaughter Emily Mae Campbell on September 26th! Poppop will be over to help you with that cake honey!

Sunday morning Net Control stations still needed. Contact Ed, KB3IV now!

Happy 90th to Paul Bohlander...

Paul W3VVS grew up in Fremont in northern Ohio and went to Valparaiso Institute, a 2 year radio school in Valparaiso Indiana. He obtained his Amateur license in 1941 with the call of W8VVS.

The radio schools were popular in the early days of radio until the early 1970's. This institution was originally known as the Dodge Telegraph school, named for the founder. After graduation, WWII was on and he secured a teaching job at the school instructing military students in Morse code.

After that contract dried up, he found employment with Philco Corporation of Philadelphia as a field technical representative or "TechReps" as they were known, for Philco in the Pacific theater, one of the

early manufacturers of radar equipment. As a civilian operating in the war zone, he wore a khaki uniform with TechRep insignia. He installed many APS-4's and other radio equipment in aircraft during his stint with a Marine aviation squadron as it hopped across the Pacific in the last year of the war, along with other tasks such as inspecting ship installations and their spare parts inventories. He was on islands such as Kwajalein, Eniwetok and Majuro in the Gilbert and Marshall Islands groups.

After the war he was at the Navy development base of Patuxent River Maryland for a while and then eventually settled in the northern suburbs of Philadelphia where Philco was based and was a technical writer in Philco's technical publications group. Besides writing manuals for their automobile radios, technical school program and Philco appliances, he did work on some military contracts Philco obtained which included the writing the first version maintenance manuals for the R-388, R389, and R390 receivers for Fort Monmouth, and an amphibious Army truck at Ford in Detroit. (Ford had bought Philco and it became known as Philco-Ford, then later as Aeronutronic Ford.)

He worked a full career of about 35 years with Philco and continued to write technical manuals at a small manual company and at Jerrold/General Instruments (now Motorola) for a number of years later.

He has been a member of the Antique Wireless Association (AWA) for many years and collected National receivers. He has built many reconstructions of early tube receivers right up to the present. I could not do as good a job of the projects as he does!

Four years ago I posted a story with photos on the AM Forum bulletin board titled "OM's 1940's Rig About To Be On Air" on his radio shack and the restoration of his homebrew push-pull 812H transmitter originally finished in 1946.

The link to that thread is:

<http://amfone.net/Amforum/index.php?topic=5267.0>

He was on 75 meters with that transmitter Saturday evening August 15th in QSO with Chris W2JBL and Paul WA3VJB at the Armstrong Tower Special Event Station W2A in Alpine New Jersey.

Hey folks, if you haven't already, send your cards and letters to:

Paul Bohlander W3VVS
2731 Hawthorne Rd.,
Glenside, PA 19038-2406.

Thanks to Tom, WA3KLR



More Field Day fun ...



The Mt.Airy Pack Rats are having a Mid Atlantic States VHF Conference on Saturday the 28th followed by their Hamarama Hamfest on Sunday the 27th. Check their website for details at <http://www.packratvhf.com/> and click on the *Latest Club Information and News* link.

For Sale:

Double Braided Dacron Dipole Rope now in stock. 3/16 diameter. Black in color. Will cut to requested length. High stretch resistance. Strength: Excellent, Resistance to abrasion: Excellent, Resistance to chemicals: Very good, Acids: Good. Sunlight resistance: Excellent, Shock load: Excellent. Does not float. Seal ends with heat. Resistant to mildew. Breaking strength 630 Pounds. \$0.14 per foot

Please feel free to forward to other clubs of which you are a member.

Also:

Ameritron AL-811H amplifier Factory Stock with copy of manual. New \$900.00 Sale \$650.00

Contact Steve, WU3I, at 215-605-6074 or wu3i@arrl.net for any of the items above.

Stop by 28.480 any night at 2000L and meet Kurt, NN3C, and other local 10M enthusiasts.

September at PMRC...

Note: meetings are on the 2nd & 3rd Wednesday!

6th Sunday - W3STW NCS
 7th Monday - Labor Day
 9th Wed - Board of Directors meeting
 13th Sunday - N3OWM NCS
 16th Wed - General Membership Meeting
 18th Fri - Rosh Hashana
 20th Sunday - KB3IV NCS
 22nd Tues - Fall Begins at 2118 UTC
 24th Thur - VE test session
 27th Sunday - K3XS NCS
 Yom Kippur

And don't forget the **ARES** net every Sunday night at 2100L on the club repeater. Larry, K3HWE, wants to hear from **you!**

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First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc.
 641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

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